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Select Committee on Stillbirth Research and Education
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Select Committee

Select Committee on Stillbirth Research and Education

The South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) would like to support the Senate enquiry into the future of stillbirth research and education in Australia.

SAHMRI supports the combined submission from the Stillbirth Centre of Excellence, the Australian College of Midwives, the Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand and Women's Healthcare Australasia.

Stillbirth is an issue of national significance that requires coordinated action across all levels of Australian governments to improve the current and future wellbeing of Australian women, their families and our wider society.

The need to access timely data in order to better target areas of need is important to reducing the rates of stillbirth. In particular the rates of stillbirth for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, which are double those of other women in Australia, need to be addressed.

The gap between the evidence and clinical practice in hospitals in relation to stillbirth prevention and care needs to be resourced in order to enable improved outcomes for families. There is an opportunity to utilise Medical Futures Funding to achieve this.

I am pleased that this important area of research is the subject of a Senate enquiry, which I hope will lead to priority actions to improve Australia's performance in reducing the number of families affected by stillbirth.

Yours sincerely

Professor Steve Wesselingh
Executive Director